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Agenda item 98

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin **Ngundze** (South Africa)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly decision 71/514 of 5 December 2016.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2017, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 52 (b) and 90 to 106. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 and 10 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and the presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 14 meetings (10th to 23rd), from 11 to 13, from 16 to 18 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 24th to 28th meetings, on 27, 30 and 31 October and on 1 and 2 November.[1]

[1] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/72/PV.2, A/C.1/72/PV.3, A/C.1/72/PV.4, A/C.1/72/PV.5, A/C.1/72/PV.6, A/C.1/72/PV.7, A/C.1/72/PV.8, A/C.1/72/PV.9, A/C.1/72/PV.10, A/C.1/72/PV.11, A/C.1/72/PV.12, A/C.1/72/PV.13, A/C.1/72/PV.14, A/C.1/72/PV.15, A/C.1/72/PV.16, A/C.1/72/PV.17, A/C.1/72/PV.18, A/C.1/72/PV.19, A/C.1/72/PV.20, A/C.1/72/PV.21, A/C.1/72/PV.22, A/C.1/72/PV.23, A/C.1/72/PV.24, A/C.1/72/PV.25, A/C.1/72/PV.26, A/C.1/72/PV.27 and A/C.1/72/PV.28.

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4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.52/Rev.1

5. On 26 October, the representative of India, on behalf of Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, India, Mauritius and Sierra Leone, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" (A/C.1/72/L.52/Rev.1). Subsequently, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 26th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.52/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Underlining the keen interest of the international community to keep abreast of the latest developments in science and technology of relevance to international security and disarmament and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Mindful of the need to regulate the transfer of technologies for peaceful uses, in accordance with relevant international obligations, to address the risk of proliferation by States or non-State actors,

Acknowledging the need to continue the exchange of technologies for peaceful uses, including in accordance with relevant international obligations,

Cognizant of the discussions on developments in science and technology at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and under the standing agenda item on science and technology of the intersessional programme established by the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Mindful of the discussions in other forums, such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the United Nations disarmament machinery,

Noting the discussions on various dimensions of emerging technologies under the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[1]

Noting also the discussions within the United Nations and the specialized agencies on developments in the field of information and communications technologies, including in the context of international security,

Acknowledging that the accelerating pace of technological change necessitates a system-wide assessment of the potential impact of developments in science and technology on international security and disarmament, with due regard to avoiding duplication and complementing efforts already under way in United Nations entities and in the framework of the relevant international conventions,

1. *Invites* Member States to continue efforts to apply developments in science and technology for disarmament-related purposes, including the verification

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.

of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments, and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts, with an annex containing submissions from Member States giving their views on the matter;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".